

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAIGON 03632 271733Z

15

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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R 271350Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4234

INFO AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 3632

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CASC, ICRC, PINS, PL, VS

SUBJECT: POLDEL EFFORTS RE AMERICANS IN BAN ME THUOT

REF: SAIGON 3554

1. ON MARCH 27, MR. STANISLAW PRZYGODZKI, DEPUTY CHIEF OF POLDEL, BRIEFED EMBAFF ON HIS DELEGATION'S INFORMAL EFFORTS TO ASCERTAIN THE WELFARE AND DISPOSITION OF AMERICANS CAUGHT IN BAN ME THUOT'S ATTACK.

2. THE SAME MORNING FOR THE FOURTH TIME, AMB FIJALKOWSKI SPOKE WITH "PRG" GEN. TUAN WHO REITERATED THAT HE HAD NO INFORMATION ON THE STATUS OF FOREIGN NATIONALS CAPTURED IN BAN ME THUOT BUT THAT ON MARCH 26 AN URGENT MESSAGE HAD BEEN SENT TO HIS SUPERIORS REQUESTING INFORMATION WHICH WOULD BE PASSED TO THE AMBASSADOR IMMEDIATELY UPON RECEIPT. GEN. TUAN STATED, AS HE HAS PREVIOUSLY, THAT ANY AMERICANS CAPTURED WOULD BE QUESTIONED

FIRST AND THOSE WHO ARE DETERMINED TO BE PRIVATE CITIZENS WILL BE PERMITTED TO DO AS THEY WISH (PRZYGODZKI INTERPRETED THIS TO MEAN RETURN TO SAIGON). ANYONE CATEGORIZED AS A "MILITARY EXPERT" WOULD BE TREATED DIFFERENTLY. GEN. TUAN WAS NOT DISPOSED TO DEFINE THE SPECIFICS OF THIS TREATMENT PRECISELY.

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PAGE 02 SAIGON 03632 271733Z

3. PRZYGODZKI EMPHASIZED THAT THEIR FRIENDS WERE "OVERLY SENSITIVE" CONCERNING ANY OFFICIAL ROLE THE ICCS MIGHT ATTEMPT TO PLAY TO SECURE THE RELEASE OF THESE PERSONNEL. HE STATED THAT IT IS THE POLDEL'S CONSIDERED OPINION THAT IF THE COMMISSION PUTS ANY OFFICIAL PRESSURE ON THE "PRG" TO RELEASE THE INDIVIDUALS CONCERNED IT WOULD PROBABLY MAKE THEM LESS TRACTABLE AND COULD CONCEIVABLY UNDERMINE THE NEGOTIATIONS ONGOING ON OUR BEHALF. FURTHERMORE, THE POLDEL WILL BE FORCED TO BLOCK ANY RECOMMENDATION THAT THE ICCS MAKE AN OFFICIAL INQUIRY INTO THE FATE OF THE DETAINEES. THE TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE PARIS ACCORDS DO NOT PERMIT THE COMMISSION TO ACT AS INTERMEDIARY BETWEEN PARTIES TO THE AGREEMENT. THE COMMISSION HAS SCRUPULOUSLY AVOIDED ASSUMING SUCH A ROLE IN THE PAST, HE POINTED OUT, AND CANNOT BE PERMITTED TO DO SO IN THIS CASE.

4. HOWEVER, PRZYGODZKI EMPHASIZED THE POLDEL WILL UNOFFICIALLY DO EVERYTHING IT CAN TO HELP SECURE THE RELEASE OF OUR PEOPLE. IT HAS ALREADY TAKEN A POSITION IT SUSPECTS TO BE UNPOPULAR WITH THE "PRG" CONCERNING THE LEGAL STATUS OF THE IRANIAN AND INDONESIAN OFFICERS CAPTURED IN BAN ME THUOT. (THE POLDEL INSISTS THAT ALL ICCS DELEGATES HAVE DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY DESPITE ITS POSITION AND THAT OF THE "PRG" THAT BAN ME THUOT IS NOT A LEGAL ICCS SITE.) HE SAID THAT BECAUSE OF THE HUMANITARIAN ASPECTS OF THE PROBLEM AND THE GOOD RELATIONS WHICH POLAND AND THE US ENJOY, HIS DELEGATION BELIEVES IT HAS A RESPONSIBILITY TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE. AN ADDITIONAL, PRACTICAL INCENTIVE, PRZYGODZKI ADDED, IS THAT THE POLDEL APPRECIATES SUPPORT EMBASSY SAIGON HAS PROVIDED DURING ITS TENURE ON THE COMMISSION AND WANTS TO MAINTAIN GOOD RAPPORT.

5. HE CLOSED BY REPEATING POKDEL REQUEST THAT WE NOT DISCLOSE ITS PARTICIPATION IN THIS MATTER, PARTICULARLY TO OTHER DELEGATIONS.  
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## Message Attributes

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